

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for centrally managing plural network clients interfaced with a network host, the method comprising the steps of:

5 initiating a login script at a network client, the login script calling a login routine associated with the network host that operationally manages the configuration of the network client;

installing a start-up routine with the login
10 routine, the start-up routine associated with the network client;

using a start-up routine to determine the operating system of the network client; and

managing the start-up of the network client with the
15 start-up routine according to the operating system of the network client.

2. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the managing the start-up step further comprises the steps
20 of:

directing the network client to install predetermined local utilities; and

directing the network client to load predetermined network utilities.

25 3. The method according to Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

initiating a login routine with the login script; and

30 using the login routine to initiate the start-up routine on the network client.

4. The method according to Claim 3 wherein the login routine resides on the network host.

5 5. The method according to Claim 3 wherein the start-up routine resides on the network client.

6. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the operating system comprises one of either Windows NT or
10 Windows 95.

7. The method according to Claim 2 wherein the start-up routine installs the predetermined local utilities according to launch manager values.
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8. The method according to Claim 7 further comprising the step of setting launch manager values with a launch manager.

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9. A method for centrally managing plural network clients interfaced with a network host, the method comprising the steps of:

initiating a login script at a network client;

5 automatically calling a login routine, the login routine operationally managing the configuration of the network client;

using the login routine to install a start-up routine on the network client; and

10 automatically calling the start-up routine, the start-up routine operationally managing the start-up of the network client.

10. The method according to Claim 9 wherein the start-up routine manages the start-up of the network client by performing a method comprising the steps of:

directing the network client to install predetermined local utilities; and

15 directing the network client to load predetermined network utilities.

11. The method according to Claim 10 wherein the login routine manages the configuration of the network client by performing a method comprising the steps of:

25 gathering system information;

creating standard directories;

determining the operating system of the network client;

installing default applications; and

30 establishing a desktop configuration.

12. The method according to Claim 11 wherein the establishing a desktop configuration step comprises the step of installing the launch manager.

5 13. The method according to Claim 12 wherein the login routine resides on the network server.

10 14. The method according to Claim 12 wherein the launch manager resides on the network client.

15 15. The method according to Claim 12 wherein at least one network client has a Windows 95 operating system.

20 16. The method according to Claim 15 wherein at least one network client has a Windows NT operating system.

17. A system for central management of plural network clients interfaced with a network host, each network client having an operating system, the system comprising:

- 5 a start-up routine associated with each network client, the start-up routine operational to determine the network client operating system, and to direct network clients to install predetermined local utilities, the start-up routine further operational to direct network
10 clients to load predetermined network utilities; and
 a login routine associated with each network client, the login routine operational to install the start-up routine, to determine the network client operating system, and to direct network clients to establish a
15 desktop configuration.

18. The system according to Claim 17 wherein the network comprises a local area network.

- 20 19. The system according to Claim 17 wherein the network comprises a wide area network.

20. The system according to Claim 17 further comprising a launch manager associated with each network
25 client, the launch manager operational to define the local utilities installed on each network client by the start-up routine.

21. The system according to Claim 17 wherein each
network client has an operating system, and wherein at
least one network client has a Windows 95 operating
system and at least one network client has a Windows NT
5 operating system.

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22. A method for establishing the configuration of network workstations, the method comprising:

initiating login of one or more workstations to the network;

5 loading a start-up routine to the one or more workstations, the start-up routine having instructions for workstation configuration;

initiating operation of the start-up routine instructions with a message sent over the network to the
10 one or more workstations; and

configuring the workstation according to the start-up routine instructions.

23. The method of Claim 22 further comprising:

15 determining an exception to the start-up routine instructions for a predetermined workstation; and

preventing the initiation of start-up routine instructions associated with the exception.

20 24. The method of Claim 23 wherein preventing the initiation of instructions further comprises sending a message over the network to the predetermined workstation to identify start-up routine instructions.

25 25. The method of Claim 22 further comprising:
executing the start-up routine instructions on the workstation to initiate a pulse tool on the workstation;
and

30 monitoring a network queue with the pulse tool to determine actions for the workstation.

26. The method of Claim 25 wherein the start-up routine instructions comprise the pulse tool.

27. The method of Claim 22 wherein the configuration comprises an application, the application loaded with the start-up routine, the method further comprising:

5 sending a message to the workstation over the network to approve or defer installation of the application; and
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deferring installation of the application if an approval message is not returned by the workstation.

28. The method of Claim 27 further comprising:
15 sending one or more additional messages to the workstation over the network to approve or defer installation of the application;

tracking the number of deferrals of the installation; and

20 sending a message to the workstation to initiate installation of the application without approval after a tracking a predetermined number of deferrals.

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29. A system for configuration of workstations associated with a network, the system comprising:

a login tool that receives login requests from the workstations; and

5 a start-up tool called by the login tool upon receipt of a login request, the start-up tool providing configuration instructions to the workstation making the login request;

10 wherein a message sent through the network to the workstation initiates the configuration instructions.

30. The system of Claim 29 wherein the configuration instructions comprise predetermined desktop icons.

15 31. The system of Claim 29 wherein the configuration instructions comprise an application, the message initiating installation of the application.

20 32. The system of Claim 29 wherein the configuration instructions comprise a pulse tool, the pulse tool for monitoring a network queue on a predetermined schedule to provide emergency management of the workstation based on instructions received in the
25 queue.

33. The system of Claim 32 further comprising a user message tool associated with the pulse tool, the user message tool for disseminating information
30 associated with emergency management detected by the pulse tool.

34. The system of Claim 29 further comprising:

a text tool operational to identify workstation configuration exceptions, the text tool preventing initiation of predetermined configuration instructions by
5 a workstation.

35. The system of Claim 29 further comprising:

an information tool associated with the network, the information tool for disseminating information to
10 workstations, the information tool sending a message to one or workstations to display information based on instructions stored on the workstation by the start-up tool.

36. The system of Claim 35 wherein the displayed information comprises information displayed through a browser.
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37. The system of Claim 36 wherein the displayed
20 information comprises a sample screen shot of an installed application.

38. The system of Claim 36 wherein the displayed information comprise a hot link to an intranet site.
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